

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 02180 170605Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /074 W
-----170614Z 114328 /12

R 170531Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1309
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY RABAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2180

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, MO, CG
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN MEDIA REACTION TO MOROCCO'S MILITARY ASSIST-
ANCE TO ZAIRE

1. FOR PAST SEVERAL DAYS, JORDANIAN PRESS HAS BEEN TAKING
POTSHOTS AT MOROCCO'S DECISION TO SEND MILITARY TROOPS TO ZAIRE.
SEVERAL POLITICAL CARTOONS HAVE APPEARED WITH THEME OF MOROCCAN
SOLDIERS MARCHING DOWN THE ROAD TO ZAIRE INSTEAD OF TAKING
FORK TO JERUSALEM. IN ADDITION, BY-LINED COMMENTARIES HAVE
APPEARED ALONG THEME OF LEADING NEWSPAPER AR RAYY COLUMN WHICH
STATED "WE FIND NO JUSTIFICATION AT ALL FOR MOROCCO OR EGYPT
OR ANY ARAB COUNTRY OR MAN TO ACCEPT TO GO THERE TO HELP...
AND THUS BLEED THE ARAB POWER AND MIGHT...LET US NOT INTERFERE
IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHERS...WE HAVE NO INTEREST WHAT-
SOEVER THERE...."

2. COMMENT: PRESS DOUBTLESS IS OUT IN FRONT OF GOJ ON THIS ONE.
GOJ HAS CLOSE TIES WITH MOROCCO AND SUPPORTED GOM VISIBLY
IN CONFLICT WITH ALGERIA OVER SPANISH SAHARA LAST
YEAR. MOREOVER, SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS HARBOR CONCERN ABOUT
ANGOLA EXPERIENCE AS PRECEDENT FOR SOVIET MEDDLING AND
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PAGE 02 AMMAN 02180 170605Z

EXPANSIONISM ELSEWHERE INCLUDING IN MIDDLE EAST. THUS,
GOJ RULERS WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO ARGUMENT THAT CURRENT
CONFLICT IN ZAIRE IS A FURTHER ACT IN ANGOLA DRAMA. WITHIN
PAST FEW DAYS, MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR AND VISITING RAIS AS-DIWAN,
AHMAD BEN SOUDAH, BRIEFED SENIOR GOJ OFFICIALS ON RATIONALE
OF RABAT'S ACTION IN ZAIRE. WE EXPECT GOJ NOW WILL TRY TO
REIN PRESS IN ON THIS SUBJECT, ALTHOUGH THAT USUALLY HAS

BEEN DIFFICULT TO DO WHEN KING HUSSEIN IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY,
AS HE WILL BE BEGINNING NEXT WEEK WHEN HE DEPARTS FOR FIRST
LEG OF WASHINGTON VISIT.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

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